

caused by negligent or wrongful acts or omissions of military personnel or civilian employees of the Department of the Army or Department of Defense while acting within the scope of their employment under circumstances in which the United States, if a private person, would be liable to the claimant in accordance with the law of the place where the act or omission occurred. The FTCA is a limited waiver of sovereign immunity without which the United States may not be sued in tort. Similarly, neither the Fifth Amendment nor any other provision of the U.S. Constitution creates or permits a federal cause of action allowing recovery in tort. Immunity must be expressly waived, as the FTCA waives it.

(b) To be payable, a claim must arise from the acts or omissions of an "employee of the government" under 28 U.S.C. 2671. Categories of such employees are listed in § 536.23(b) of this part.

§ 536.86 Claims not payable under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

A claim is not payable if it is identified as an exclusion in DA Pam 27-162, paragraphs 2-36 through 2-43.

§ 536.87 Applicable law for claims under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

The applicable law for claims falling under the Federal Tort Claims Act is set forth in §§ 536.41 through 536.52.

§ 536.88 Settlement authority for claims under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

(a) *General.* Subject to the Attorney General's approval of payments in excess of \$200,000 for a single claim, or if the total value of all claims and potential claims arising out of a single incident exceeds \$200,000 (for which USARCS must write an action memorandum for submission to the Department of Justice), the following officials are delegated authority to settle (including payment in full or in part, or denial) and make final offers on claims under this subpart:

- (1) The Judge Advocate General (TJAG);
- (2) The Assistant Judge Advocate General (TAJAG); and
- (3) The Commander USARCS.

(b) *ACO heads.* A head of an area claims office (ACO) is delegated authority to pay up to \$50,000 in settlement of a claim, regardless of the amount claimed, and to disapprove or make a final offer in a claim presented in an amount not exceeding \$50,000, provided the value of all claims and potential claims arising out of a single incident does not exceed \$200,000.

(c) *CPO heads.* A head of a claims processing office (CPO) with approval authority is delegated authority to approve, in full or in part, claims presented for \$5,000 or less, and to pay claims regardless of amount, provided an award of \$5000 or less is accepted in full satisfaction of the claim.

(d) *Further guidance.* Authority to further delegate payment authority is set forth in § 536.3(g)(1) of this part. For further discussions related to approval, settlement and payment authority, see paragraphs 2-69 and 2-71 of DA Pam 27-162.

(e) *Settlement of multiple claims from a single incident.* (1) Where a single act or incident gives rise to multiple claims cognizable under this subpart, and where one claim cannot be settled within the monetary jurisdiction for one claim of the authority acting on the claim or all claims cannot be settled within the monetary jurisdiction for a single incident, no final offer will be made. All claims will be forwarded, along with a recommended disposition, to the Commander USARCS.

(2) If the Commander USARCS determines that all claims can be settled for a total of \$200,000 or less, he may return claims to the field office for settlement. If the Commander USARCS, determines that all claims cannot be settled for a total of \$200,000, he must request Department of Justice authority prior to settlement of any one claim. The field claims office must not concede liability by paying any one claim of lesser value.

§ 536.89 Reconsideration of Federal Tort Claims Act claims.

(a) *Reconsideration of paid claims.* Under the provision of 28 U.S.C. 2672, neither an original or successor authority may reconsider a claim which has been paid except as expressly set forth below. Payment of an amount for

property damage will bar payment for personal injury or death except for a split claim provided the provisions of § 536.60 are followed. Supplemental payments for either property or injury are barred by 10 U.S.C. 2672. Accordingly, claimants will be informed that only one claim or payment is permitted.

(b) *Notice of right to reconsideration.* Notice of disapproval or final offer issued by an authority listed in § 536.88(b) will advise the claimant of a right to reconsideration to be submitted in writing not later than six months from the date of mailing the notice. Such a request will suspend the requirement to bring suit for a minimum of six months or until action is taken on the request. The claimant will be so informed. See the Attorney General's Regulations at 28 CFR 14.9(b), posted on the USARCS Web site; for the address see § 536.2(a).

(c) *Original approval or settlement authority*—(1) *Reconsideration.* An original settlement authority may reconsider the denial of, or final offer on, a claim brought under the FTCA upon request of the claimant or the legal representative.

(2) *Settlement correction.* An original approval or settlement authority may reopen and correct action on a claim previously settled in whole or in part (even if a settlement agreement has been executed) when an error contrary to the parties' mutual understanding is discovered in the original action. For example: a claim was settled for \$15,000, but the settlement agreement was typed to read "\$1,500" and the error is not discovered until the file is being prepared for payment. If appropriate, a corrected payment will be made. An approval or settlement authority who has reason to believe that a settlement was obtained by fraud on the part of the claimant or claimant's legal representative will reopen action on that claim, and if the belief is substantiated, correct the action. The basis for correcting an action will be stated in a memorandum and included in the file.

(d) *A successor approval or settlement authority*—(1) *Reconsideration.* A successor approval or settlement authority may reconsider the denial of, or final offer on, an FTCA claim upon re-

quest of the claimant, the claimant's authorized agent, or the claimant's legal representative only on the basis of fraud, substantial new evidence, errors in calculation, or mistake (misinterpretation) of law.

(2) *Settlement correction.* A successor approval or settlement authority may reopen and correct a predecessor's action on a claim that was previously settled in whole or in part for the same reasons that an original authority may do so.

(e) *Requirement to forward a request for reconsideration.* When full relief is not granted, forward all requests for reconsideration of an ACO's denial or final offer to the Commander USARCS for action. Include all investigative material and legal analyses generated by the request.

(f) *Action prior to forwarding.* A request for reconsideration should disclose fully the legal and/or factual bases that the claimant has asserted as grounds for relief and provide appropriate supporting documents or evidence. Following completion of any investigation or other action deemed necessary for an informed disposition of the request, the approval or settlement authority will reconsider the claim and attempt to settle it, granting relief as warranted. When further settlement efforts appear unwarranted, the entire file with a memorandum of opinion will be forwarded to the Commander USARCS. The claimant will be informed of such transfer.

(g) *Finality of action.* Action by the appropriate authority (either affirming the prior action or granting full or partial relief) upon a request for reconsideration constitutes final administrative disposition of a claim. No further requests for reconsideration will be allowed except on the basis of fraud. Attempted further requests for reconsideration on other grounds will not toll the six-month period set forth in 28 U.S.C. 2401(b).

Subpart E—Claims Cognizable Under the Non-Scope Claims Act

§ 536.90 Statutory authority for the Non-Scope Claims Act.

The statutory authority for this subpart is set forth in the Act of October